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09/756,792	01/10/2001	Seiji Umemoto	Q62563	6553

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SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK, & SEAS, PLLC
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EXAMINER

AMARI, ALESSANDRO V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2872

DATE MAILED: 06/19/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/756,792

Applicant(s)

UMEMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Alessandro V. Amari

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 9-21 and 24-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7, 8, 22 and 23 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4. 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

On page 17 of the specification, line 12, the sentence does not have an ending; ✓

On page 22 of the specification, line 5, the sentence does not have an ending; ✓

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 6 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. Claims 6 and 21 recite that flat surfaces have projected areas, on the polarizer plane wherein the projected areas are "not smaller than 10 times as large as a projected area" (claim 6, lines 4-6 and claim 21, lines 2-5). This recitation is inconsistent since the projected area cannot be 10 times larger than itself. ✓

Claim Objections

5. Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, and 13-29 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Regarding claim 4, line 3, the phrase "like an" renders the claims ambiguous because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

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Regarding claim 5, line 4, the phrase "like a" renders the claims ambiguous because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Regarding claim 7, line 12, the phrase "like a" renders the claims ambiguous because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Regarding claim 8, lines 3-4, the phrases "like a" and "such as" render the claims ambiguous because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Regarding claim 13, line 5, the phrase "on one side surface" should be recited as "on said one side surface".

? Regarding claim 19, line 3, the phrase "like an" renders the claims ambiguous because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Regarding claim 20, line 4, the phrase "like a" renders the claims ambiguous because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Regarding claim 22, line 10, the phrase "like a" renders the claims ambiguous because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

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Regarding claim 23, line 4, the phrases "like a" and "such as" render the claims ambiguous because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Regarding claim 24, line 2, the phrase "said discontinuous grooves" lacks antecedent basis.

Appropriate correction is required.

Double Patenting

6. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

7. Claim 1 is provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 2 and 5^{and 7} of copending Application No. US 2001/0004275 in view of Yamamoto et al. U.S. Patent 5,341,231 and in view of Taira et al. U.S. Patent 5,712,694. Claims 2, 5 and 7 disclose an optical path changing polarizer comprising a polarizer, an adhesive layer on one side of the polarizer and a repetitive prismatic structure. The difference between claims of the instant application and the published^{Application} is that the published application teaches the

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combination but in separate claims 2, 5 and 7 and that the published application does not teach that the refractive indices of the adhesive layer and the surface layer of the polarizer are different by 0.1. Yamamoto et al. and Taira et al. teach combining the polarizer and an adhesive layer with a repetitive prismatic structure along with the refractive indices of the adhesive and surface layer of the polarizer. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the polarizer, adhesive layer and repetitive prismatic structure in order to improve light utilization efficiency.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

8. Claim 1 is provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1, 2 and 5 of copending Application No. US 2002/0015314 in view of in view of Yamamoto et al. U.S. Patent 5,341,231 and in view of Taira et al. U.S. Patent 5,712,694. Claims 1, 2, and 5 disclose an optical path changing polarizer comprising a polarizer, an adhesive layer on one side of the polarizer and a repetitive prismatic structure. The difference between claims of the instant application and the published is that the published application teaches the combination but in separate claims 1, 2, and 5 and that the published application does not teach that the refractive indices of the adhesive layer and the surface layer of the polarizer are different by 0.1. Yamamoto et al. and Taira et al. teach combining the polarizer and an adhesive layer with a repetitive prismatic structure along with the respective refractive indices of the adhesive and surface layer of the polarizer as claimed. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art

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at the time the invention was made to combine the polarizer, adhesive layer and repetitive prismatic structure in order to improve light utilization efficiency.

9. Claim 1 is provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 of copending Application No. US 2001/0007489 in view of Yamamoto et al. U.S. Patent 5,341,231 and in view of Taira et al. U.S. Patent 5,712,694. Claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 disclose an optical path changing polarizer comprising a polarizer, an adhesive layer on one side of the polarizer and a repetitive prismatic structure. The difference between claims of the instant application and the published is that the published application teaches the combination but in separate claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 and that the published application does not teach that the refractive indices of the adhesive layer and the surface layer of the polarizer are different by 0.1. Yamamoto et al. and Taira et al. teach combining the polarizer and an adhesive layer with a repetitive prismatic structure along with the respective refractive indices of the adhesive and surface layer of the polarizer as claimed. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the polarizer, adhesive layer and repetitive prismatic structure in order to improve light utilization efficiency.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

10. Claim 1 is provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 4 and 15 of copending Application No. US 2002/0039155 in view of Yamamoto et al. U.S. Patent 5,341,231 and in view of Taira et al. U.S. Patent 5,712,694. Claims 1, 4 and 15

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disclose an optical path changing polarizer comprising a polarizer, an adhesive layer on one side of the polarizer and a repetitive prismatic structure. The difference between claims of the instant application and the published is that the published application teaches the combination but in separate claims 1, 4 and 15 and that the published application does not teach that the refractive indices of the adhesive layer and the surface layer of the polarizer are different by 0.1. Yamamoto et al. and Taira et al. teach combining the polarizer and an adhesive layer with a repetitive prismatic structure along with the respective refractive indices of the adhesive and surface layer of the polarizer as claimed. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the polarizer, adhesive layer and repetitive prismatic structure in order to improve light utilization efficiency.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claims 1-6 and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al. U.S. Patent 5,341,231 in view of Taira et al. U.S. Patent 5,712,694.

In regard to claim 1, Yamamoto et al. teaches (see Figure 6) an optical path changing polarizer comprising: a polarizer (64b); a adhesive layer (67b) disposed on

one side of said polarizer, said adhesive layer having a refractive index different by 0.1 or less from a refractive index of a surface layer of said one side of said polarizer as described in column 9, lines 6-10; and a repetitive structure (68) provided on the other side of said polarizer.

Regarding claim 9, Yamamoto et al. teaches (see Figure 6) that said prismatic structure is formed so as to be added to or integrated with a transparent protective layer (65b) of said polarizer.

Regarding claim 10, Yamamoto et al. teaches (see Figure 6) a reflection layer (68a) disposed closely on a surface on which said prismatic structure is formed.

Regarding claim 12, Yamamoto et al. teaches that said adhesive layer is of a light diffusion type as described in column 9, lines 6-9 and column 10, lines 29-31. However, Yamamoto et al. does not teach repetitive prismatic structure provided on the other side of said polarizer, said repetitive prismatic structure including optical path changing slopes aligned in a substantially constant direction so as to be inclined at an inclination angle in a range of from 35 to 48 degrees with respect to a plane of said polarizer. Nor does Yamamoto et al. teach optical path changing slopes consist of one kind slopes aligned in a substantially constant direction, or include two or more kinds of slopes in which one kind of slopes aligned in a substantially constant direction serve as a reference while another kind of slopes aligned in another substantially constant direction are opposite to said one kind of slopes, and wherein said adhesive layer is covered with a strip sheet nor that an inclination angle of each of said optical path changing slopes with respect to said polarizer plane is in a range of from 38 to 45

degrees nor wherein optical path changing slopes are formed into a structure of grooves each substantially shaped like an isosceles triangle or any other triangle in section.

Also, Yamamoto et al. does not teach that flat surfaces each of which is inclined at an inclination angle of not larger than 5 degrees with respect to said polarization plate plane has a projected area, on said polarizer plane, not smaller than 10 times as large as a projected area, on said polarizer plane, of slopes each of which is inclined at an inclination angle of not smaller than 35 degrees with respect to said polarizer plane.

Also, Yamamoto et al. does not teach that the optical path changing slopes have ridgelines parallel to or inclined within-an angle range of ± 30 degrees with respect to one side of said polarizer.

In regard to claim 1, Taira et al. does teach (see Figures 14 and 15) repetitive prismatic structure (1201) including optical path changing slopes aligned in a substantially constant direction so as to be inclined at an inclination angle in a range of from 35 to 48 degrees with respect to a plane of said polarizer as described in column 14, lines 49-59.

Regarding claim 2, Taira et al. teaches said optical path changing slopes consist of one kind slopes aligned in a substantially constant direction as shown in Figure 14.

Regarding claim 3, Taira et al. teaches that an inclination angle of each of said optical path changing slopes with respect to said polarizer plane is in a range of from 38 to 45 degrees as described in column 14, lines 49-59.

Regarding claim 4, Taira et al. teaches that said optical path changing slopes are formed into a structure of grooves each substantially shaped like an isosceles triangle or any other triangle in section as shown in Figures 14 and 15.

③ Regarding claim 6, Taira et al. teaches that flat surfaces each of which is inclined at an inclination angle of not larger than 5 degrees with respect to said polarization plate plane has a projected area, on said polarizer plane as shown in Figures 14 and 15, not smaller than 10 times as large as a projected area, on said polarizer plane, of slopes each of which is inclined at an inclination angle of not smaller than 35 degrees with respect to said polarizer plane as described in column 14, lines 49-59.

Regarding claim 11, Taira et al. teaches that said optical path changing slopes have ridgelines parallel to or inclined within-an angle range of ± 30 degrees with respect to one side of said polarizer as shown in Figure 14.

Regarding claim 2, it is noted that the combination fails to teach that the adhesive layer covered with a strip sheet. Official Notice is taken that it is notoriously old and well known in the adhesive art to use strip sheets. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize strip sheets in the combination in order to adhere the polarizer properly to a surface.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the polarizing device of Yamamoto et al. with the repetitive prismatic structure as taught by Taira et al. in order to improve light utilization efficiency.

13. Claims 13-21 and 24-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al. U.S. Patent 5,341,231 in view of Taira et al. U.S. Patent 5,712,694.

In regard to claim 13, Yamamoto et al. teaches (see Figure 6) an optical path changing polarizer comprising: a polarizer (64b) including a polarizing element and a transparent protective layer (65b) disposed on at least one side of said polarizing element; an adhesive layer (67b) disposed on one side surface of said polarizer; and a repetitive structure (68) disposed on the other side of said polarizer wherein each of respective refractive indexes of said adhesive layer and a material for forming said optical path changing slopes is not lower than a refractive index of said polarizing element or said transparent protective layer as described in column 9, lines 6-10.

Regarding claim 15, Yamamoto et al. teaches (see Figure 6) that said repetitive prismatic structure having said optical path changing slopes is formed on an outer surface of a film, the other surface of said film being bonded to said other side of said polarizer through a second adhesive layer (67c); and wherein a refractive index of said second adhesive layer is not lower than the refractive index of said polarizing element or transparent protective layer as described in column 9, lines 6-10.

Regarding claim 16, Yamamoto et al. teaches that at least said adhesive layer disposed on said one side of said polarizer is a tacky layer as described in column 10, lines 29-31. It should also be noted that inherently, an adhesive layer would have a tacky surface.

Regarding claim 25, Yamamoto et al. teaches that said repetitive prismatic structure having optical path changing slopes is formed so as to be integrated with said transparent protective layer (65b) of said polarizer as shown in Figure 6.

Regarding claim 26, Yamamoto et al. teaches (see Figure 6) that a light reflection layer (68a) is disposed closely on a surface on which said structure of irregularities having optical path changing slopes is formed as described in column 13, lines 1-2.

Regarding claim 28, Yamamoto et al. teaches that said adhesive layer is of a light diffusion type as described in column 9, lines 6-9 and column 10, lines 29-31.

Regarding claim 29, Yamamoto et al. teaches that said light diffusion type adhesive layer (67b) is provided on a surface of said polarizer as shown in Figure 6. However, Yamamoto et al. does not teach repetitive prismatic structure including optical path changing slopes aligned in a substantially constant direction so as to be inclined at an inclination angle of from 35 to 48 degrees with respect to a plane of said polarizer nor that said optical path changing slopes consist of one kind of slopes aligned in a substantially constant direction, or include two or more kinds of slopes in which one kind of slopes aligned in a substantially constant direction serve as a reference while another kind of slopes aligned in another substantially constant direction are opposite to said one kind of slopes. Nor does Yamamoto et al. teach that the tacky layer on the polarizer is covered with a strip sheet. Yamamoto et al. does not teach that each of said optical path changing slopes is inclined at an inclination angle in a range of from 38 to 45 degrees with respect to a plane of said polarizer not that each of said optical path changing slopes is based on a groove structure substantially shaped like an isosceles

triangle or any other triangle in section. Yamamoto et al. does not teach that a projected area, on said polarizer plane, of any flat surface having an inclination angle of not larger than 5 degrees with-respect to said polarizer plane is not smaller than 10 times as large as a projected area, on said polarizer plane, of any slope having an inclination angle of not smaller than 35 degrees. Yamamoto et al. does not teach that said discontinuous grooves having optical path changing slopes are arranged at random nor that the ridgelines of said optical path changing slopes are parallel to or inclined within an angle range of ± 30 degrees with respect to one side of said polarizer.

In regard to claim 13, Taira et al. does teach (see Figures 14 and 15) a repetitive prismatic structure (1201) disposed on the other side of said polarizer, said repetitive prismatic structure including optical path changing slopes aligned in a substantially constant direction so as to be inclined at an inclination angle of from 35 to 48 degrees with respect to a plane of said polarizer as described in column 14, lines 49-59.

Regarding claim 14, Taira et al. teaches that said optical path changing slopes consist of one kind of slopes aligned in a substantially constant direction as shown in Figure 14 or include two or more kinds of slopes in which one kind of slopes aligned in a substantially constant direction serve as a reference while another kind of slopes aligned in another substantially constant direction are opposite to said one kind of slopes.

Regarding claim 18, Taira et al. teaches that each of said optical path changing slopes is inclined at an inclination angle in a range of from 38 to 45 degrees with respect to a plane of said polarizer as described in column 14, lines 49-59.

Regarding claim 19, Taira et al. teaches that each of said optical path changing slopes is based on a groove structure substantially shaped like an isosceles triangle or any other triangle in section as shown in Figures 14 and 15.

Regarding claim 21, Taira et al. teaches that a projected area, on said polarizer plane, of any flat surface having an inclination angle of not larger than 5 degrees with respect to said polarizer plane as shown in Figures 14 and 15 is not smaller than 10 times as large as a projected area, on said polarizer plane, of any slope having an inclination angle of not smaller than 35 degrees as described in column 14, lines 49-59.

Regarding claim 24, Taira et al. teaches that said discontinuous grooves having optical path changing slopes are arranged at random as shown in Figure 14.

Regarding claim 27, Taira et al. teaches that ridgelines of said optical path changing slopes are parallel to or inclined within an angle range of ± 30 degrees with respect to one side of said polarizer as shown in Figure 14.

Regarding claim 17, it is noted that the combination fails to teach that the exposed surface of the tacky layer is covered with a strip sheet. Official Notice is taken that it is notoriously old and well known in the adhesive art to use strip sheets. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize strip sheets in the combination in order to adhere the polarizer properly to a surface.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the polarizing device of Yamamoto et al. with the

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repetitive prismatic structure as taught by Taira et al. in order to improve light utilization efficiency.

14. Claims 5 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al. U.S. Patent 5,341,231 in view of Taira et al. U.S. Patent 5,712,694 and further in view of Hira et al. U.S. Patent 5,961,198.

Regarding claims 5 and 20, the combination teaches the invention as set forth above but does not teach optical path changing slopes are formed into a structure of grooves or protrusions each substantially shaped like a tetragon or a pentagon in section. Hira et al. does teach optical path changing slopes are formed into a structure of grooves or protrusions each substantially shaped like a tetragon or a pentagon in section as shown in Figures 20(a), 20(c) and 21(a)-21(c). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination utilizing the shapes as taught by Hira et al. in order to increase luminance.

Allowable Subject Matter

15. Claims 7, 8, 22 and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

16. Claims 7 and 22 are allowable over the prior art for at least the reason that the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest "wherein each of said flat surfaces has a width of not smaller than 10 times as large as the width of each of said optical path changing slopes" as set forth in the claimed combination.

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Claims 8 and 23 are allowable over the prior art for at least the reason that the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest "the length of each of said discontinuous grooves is not smaller than 5 times as large as the depth of each of said grooves" as set forth in the claimed combination.

The prior art for record, Yamamoto et al., Taira et al. and Hira et al. teach an optical path changing polarizer comprising a polarizer along with a transparent protective layer, an adhesive layer, and repetitive prismatic structures but does not teach the particular dimensional characteristics of the slopes or grooves and no motivation or teaching is present to modify this difference as derived.

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alessandro V. Amari whose telephone number is (703) 306-0533. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cassandra Spyrou can be reached on (703) 308-1687. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9318 for regular communications and (703) 872-9319 for After Final communications.

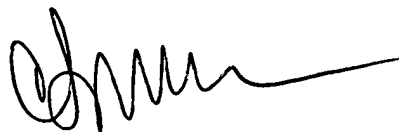
Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

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**Cassandra Spyrou
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800**